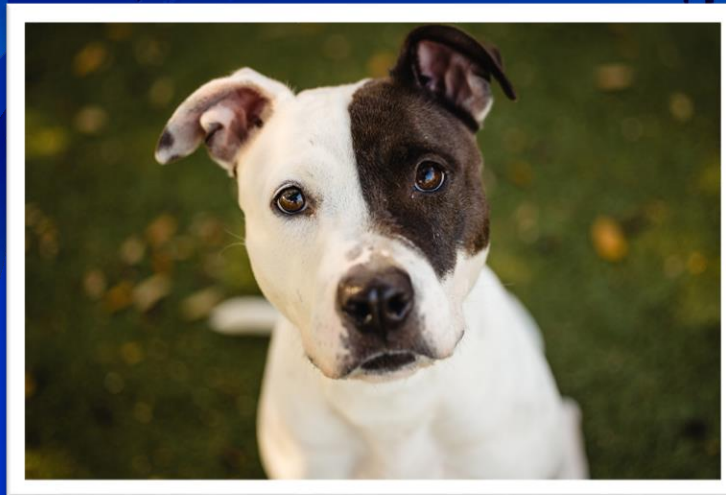


Board of County Commissioners

**Animal Services Ordinance
Public Hearing:
Chapter 5, Article II**

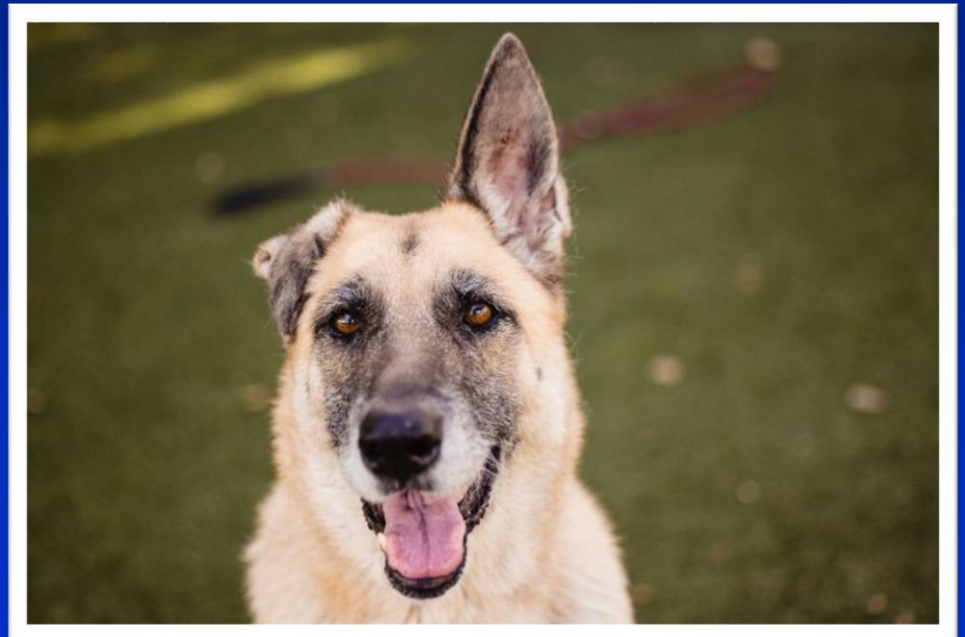


February 10, 2026



Presentation Outline

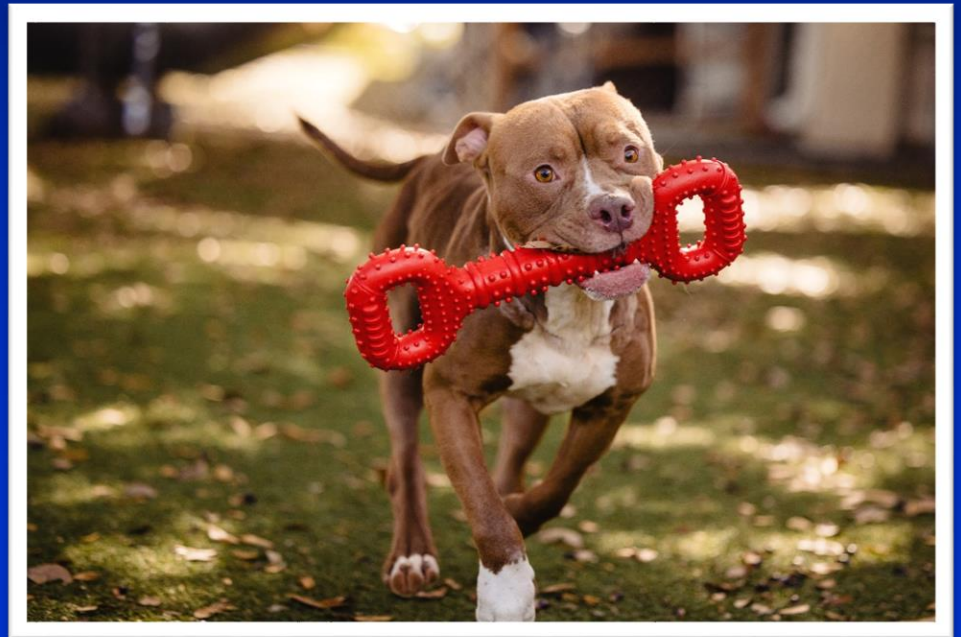
- **Purpose**
- **Proposed Changes**
- **Summary**
- **Action Requested**





Presentation Outline

- **Purpose**
- Proposed Changes
- Summary
- Action Requested





Purpose

- Last major revisions were in 2005.
- To address longstanding animal welfare issues in the community, Animal Services is proposing changes that will:
 - Broaden mandatory spay/neuter, to reduce the number of unwanted/unplanned litters of pets.
 - Increase enforcement opportunities related to unethical sales of puppies and kittens.
 - Promote responsible pet ownership through increasing mandatory pet microchip identification.
 - Update stray hold times in order to be consistent with benchmark and neighboring counties.
 - Codify the current trap-neuter-return program.
 - Ensure compliance with the newly enacted CS/HB 593 related to “dangerous” dogs.



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- **Proposed Changes**
- Summary
- Action Requested





Proposed Changes

- Mandatory Spay/Neuter On First Impound
- Minimum Requirements For Pet Sales
- Updating Minimum Stray Hold Timeframes
- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)
- Mandatory Microchipping On Reclaim
- “Dangerous Dog” Language



Proposed Changes

■ Mandatory Spay/Neuter on First Impound

| Current Ordinance | Proposed Ordinance |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires spay/neuter on second impound of the pet.• Appeal option: “Any owner of an impounded animal subject to mandatory spay/neuter may petition in writing for a hearing to be conducted by the division manager or his designee. Such petition must be made by the owner within three (3) working days of the division's issuance of a notice of impoundment. The hearing must be held within four (4) working days of receipt of such petition. After the hearing, the division manager or designee shall require the animal to be spayed or neutered unless the division manager has determined that good cause exists for not requiring that the animal be spayed or neutered.” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires spay/neuter on first impound of a pet found at large. Spay/neuter required on second impound for all other intake types, unless medically unfit.• Exemptions for mandatory spay/neuter on first impound include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licensed veterinarian with whom the pet owner has a previously established relationship certifies in writing that the surgery would endanger the pet’s health or the pet is of appropriate conformation to be bred.• Animal is registered with an identified association, actively used for show, sporting competition, etc.• Dog is utilized by law enforcement.• Dog is a service animal. |



Proposed Changes

■ Minimum Requirements for Sale of Pets

| Current Ordinance | Proposed Ordinance |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the Florida Statutes establish minimum requirements for sale of pets, this wording is absent in the local ordinance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mirrors language in Florida Statutes, which requires any person selling a pet to obtain an official certification of veterinary inspection (OCVI) by a veterinarian licensed by the State of Florida and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture for each individual pet.• Language stipulates specific inoculations and diagnostic tests for cats and dogs.• Sale must take place no more than 30 days after issuance of the OCVI.• Pets offered for sale must be at least 8 weeks old.• Pet Lemon Law language added, which provides buyers with protection in the event the pet is sick or has congenital/hereditary disorders. |



Proposed Changes

■ Minimum Requirements for Sale of Pets

| Current Ordinance | Proposed Ordinance |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not include wording related to fine amounts for violations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates a new category II violation for failure to comply with requirements for pet sales.• Category II violations have these fine amounts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First offense - \$110• Second offense - \$265• Third and subsequent offenses – mandatory court appearance |



Proposed Changes

■ Updating Minimum Stray Holds

| Current Ordinance | Proposed Ordinance |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The definition of “working days” excludes Sundays.• Stray dogs (with identification) are to be held 5 working days.• Stray dogs (without identification) are to be held 3 working days.• Stray cats (with identification) are to be held 5 working days.• Stray cats (without identification) are to be held 3 working days. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calendar days to be utilized when calculating stray holds, as shelter is open 7 days per week.• Defines identification as collar with tags or microchip.• Stray dogs (with identification) are to be held 5 calendar days.• Stray dogs (without identification) are to be held 3 calendar days.• Stray cats (with identification) are to be held 3 calendar days.• Stray cats (without identification) are to be held 1 calendar day.• Stray cats (participating in TNR program) do not have to be held.• Puppies/kittens (under 4 months of age) do not have to be held. |



Proposed Changes

■ Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

| Current Ordinance | Proposed Ordinance |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• States the division may trap for nuisance animals.• Does not have language on trap-neuter-return. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes language related to nuisance trapping.• Establishes TNR as the standard for community cat management.• States the division will offer a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program and cats shall be ear-tipped and returned to original point of pickup by a Division representative. |



Proposed Changes

■ Mandatory Microchipping on Reclaim

| Current Ordinance | Proposed Ordinance |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not require microchipping upon reclaim of a pet. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires every pet to be microchipped prior to release to its owner, at the owner's expense. |



Proposed Changes

■ “Dangerous Dog” Language

- In May 2025, CS/HB 593 was approved by the Governor and became effective on July 1, 2025.
- Animal Services is proposing to add the below language, to mirror the updated state law:
 - Owners of dogs declared “dangerous” must obtain at least \$100,000 in liability insurance coverage.
 - Dogs that have inflicted a level 5 and higher bite on the Dunbar Bite Scale are required to be held at the shelter through the duration of the “dangerous dog” investigation and any potential hearings and appeals.
 - Modifies the current penalty for an owner from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony when a dog that has previously been declared “dangerous” attacks and causes severe injury or death to a human.



Proposed Changes

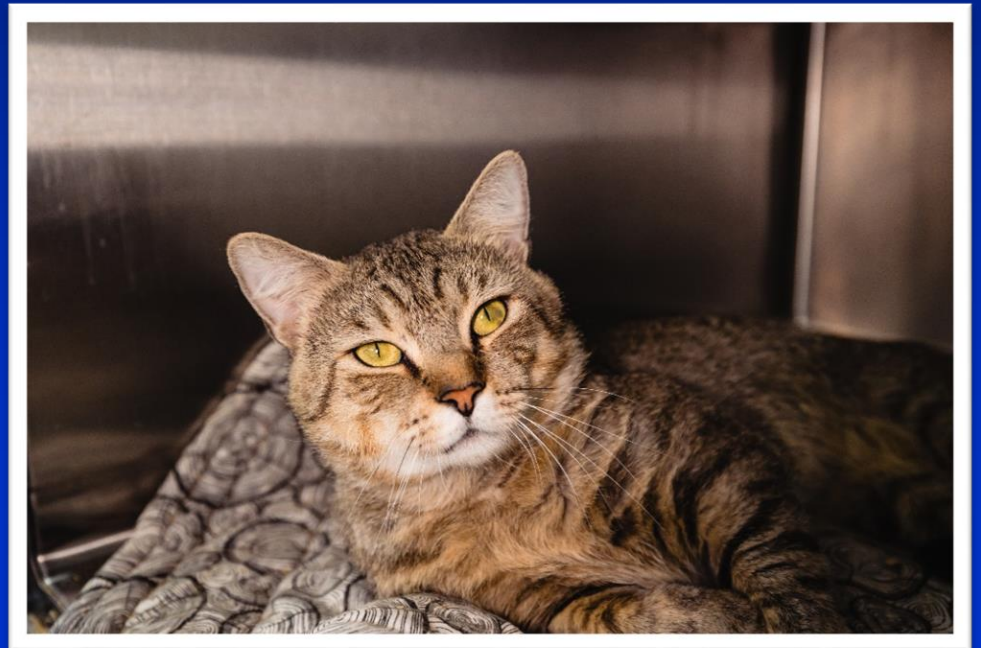
■ “Dangerous Dog” Language

- Animal Services is proposing to add the below language, to mirror the updated state law:
 - The intentional removal of microchip identification from a dog declared “dangerous” is a third-degree felony.
 - Any person who resists or obstructs an animal control authority in a “dangerous dog” investigation commits a first-degree misdemeanor.
 - Maximum fine for violation of the “dangerous dog” Florida Statute is \$1,000.
 - Requires dogs with a known “dangerous propensity” to be housed in a “proper enclosure” defined in law.



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Proposed Changes
- **Summary**
- Action Requested





Summary

- Proposed ordinance changes will:
 - Broaden mandatory spay/neuter, to reduce the number of unwanted/unplanned litters of pets.
 - Increase enforcement opportunities related to unethical sales of puppies and kittens.
 - Promote responsible pet ownership through increasing mandatory pet microchip identification.
 - Update stray hold times in order to be consistent with benchmark and neighboring counties.
 - Codify the current trap-neuter-return program.
 - Ensure compliance with the newly enacted CS/HB 593 related to “dangerous” dogs.



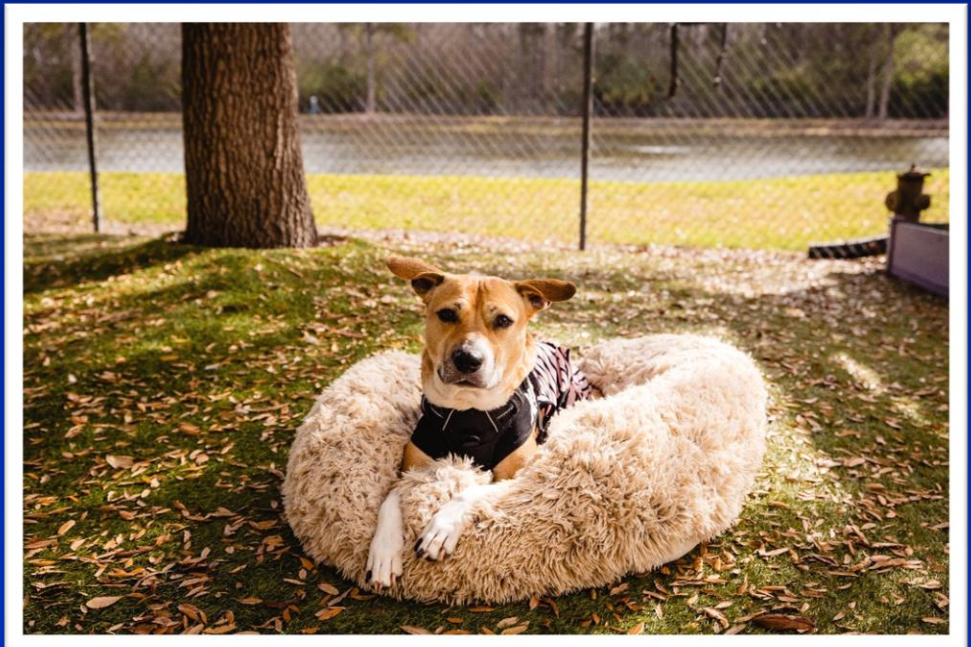
Summary

- Animal Services Advisory Board shared unanimous support for these proposed changes in September 2025.
- After the proposed ordinance was drafted and presented to the Animal Services Advisory Board, on January 20, 2026, the Animal Services Advisory Board unanimously gave their recommendation for the Board of County Commissioners to approve and adopt the proposed ordinance.



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Suggested Changes
- Summary
- **Action Requested**





Action Requested

- Approval and adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 5, Article II of the Orange County Code; modifying sections pertaining to definitions, owner requirements and penalties for dogs classified as dangerous and not dangerous, compulsory sterilization upon first impoundment of animals, hold times for impounded animals, requirements for release of impounded animals, removing nuisance trapping language, and establishing a new violation of said chapter; creating two new sections related to minimum requirements and warranty requirements for sale of dog and cats, and the establishment of a trap-neuter-return program; and providing an effective date.
- Authorize staff to correct any non-substantial grammatical or scrivener's errors within the ordinance.